VAMPIRE TEAM

SHAPING THE BATTLEFIELD

PREPARATION FIRES

HARASSMENT AND INTERDICTION

"A WAY"

PREPARATION FIRES

- Delivered on a target prior to an assault.
- Intense volume of fire delivered IAW a time schedule to support the attack
- Series, Groups, Programs

PREPARATION FIRES CONSIDERATIONS

- Tied to maneuver events, not just time.
- Fires must be accurate to be effective.
- Ammunition available.
- Consider loss of surprise.
- Consider effectiveness of Reconnaissance.
- Consider enemy reaction
- Consider threat of counterfire

HARASSING FIRES

OBJECTIVES

- Designed to disturb rest of enemy troops
- Curtail movement
- Lower morale

CONSIDERATIONS

- **Additional workload for howitzer crews**
- **Loss of TLP time for FA BN/BTRY**
- **Increased threat of Counterbattery fires**
- **Increased expenditure of Ammunition**

PLANNING PREPARATION FIRES

1) Determine assets and ammunition available
2) Verify risk estimate distances and attack criteria with the commander
3) Plan Targets
4) Develop communications plan
5) Develop Schedule of Fires decide how preparation schedule will be initiated
6) Brief plan/confirm method with the commander
7) Complete scheduling worksheets
8) Rehearse/refine the plan

DETERMINE ASSETS AVAILABLE

- Determine Fire Support Assets available
- ATO cycle
- Amount and Type of munitions (UBL/CSR)
- Consider dud rates and self-destruct times

Verify Risk Estimate Distances and Attack Criteria

- Verify risk estimate distances (Appendix A FM6-20-40)
- Conduct Risk Assessment
- Risk Estimate distances allow the commander to estimate risk in terms of friendly casualties that may result when employing fires in close proximity of friendly troops.

Plan Targets

- Plan targets on the objective, flanks of the objective and beyond the objective.
- Match weapons and ammunition to the appropriate target
- Focus Reconnaissance Task and Purpose
- Focus COLT Platoon Task and Purpose
- BDE Targeting Board/D3A Develops:
  - Preparation EFST
    - Programs
    - Series
    - Groups
  - HPTL
  - AGM
  - Target Selection Standards
  - Counterfire EFST
  - Observation Plan

Communications Plan

- Develop Communications plan to support fires
- Plan reliable and redundant digital and voice communications
- Plan for RETRANS

Determine Maneuver Rate of Movement

- Determine rate of movement of the force
- Wargame and rehearse movement with schedule of fires

Develop Schedule of Fires

- Fires begin before H-hour and may extend beyond it.
- Prep may be initiated IAW H-hour or be On Call.
- Echelonment of Fires
- Phased Targeting
  - Phase 1: Attack of fire support means and ADA
  - Phase 2: Attack Command Posts, Communications, Assembly Areas, Reserves
  - Phase 3: Attack Defensive Areas in Forward Positions, and targets that pose an immediate threat to attacking units

Brief Plan

- FSCOORD, BDE S2, BDE FSO, ALO, BDE BSO briefs BDE S3 and Commander on:
  - Scheme of Fires
  - Scheduling Worksheets
  - Observation Plan
  - Communications Plan.

Schedule the Preparation(1 of 2)

1) Establish Related Files (BN FDC)
   a. Build FU/Ammo Files
   b. Build Support Files
2) Modify the Commander's Modification File (BDE FSE)
   a. NNFP;MOD
   b. NNFP;ATTACK
   c. NNFP;XCLUDE
   d. NNFP;FUSEL
   e. NNFP;RESFU
3) Develop Preliminary Target List-ATI;PREFP (BDE FSE)
4) Develop Fire Plan Target List (BDE FSE)
5) Fire Planning Worksheet (BDE FSE)
   a. FPTGT
   b. ONCALL
   c. TISF
6) Compute Fire Plan-Fire Planning COMFP (BN FDC)
7) Resolve Exceptions (BN FDC)

Refine and Rehearse the Preparation

- Target Refinement
  - Observation Plan
  - Target CUT-OFF
- Brigade Targeting Meeting
  - Apply Target Selection Standards
  - Compare to HPTL
  - Apply AGM

Rehearsals
- Combined Arms Rehearsal
- FM FS Rehearsal
- FA Technical Rehearsal